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VOLUME XLVIII—NUMBER 177.

WHEELING, W. VA., SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1900.

PRICE TWO CENTS (5 CENTS)

RAILWAY COMMUNICATION ESTABLISHED

Between Bloomington and Cape Town—Satisfactory Condition Continues.

RUSSIA THE ONLY POWER

That Failed to Sternly Refuse to Mediate for the Stoppage of the War.

LONDON, March 17, 4:30 a. m.—With the railway communication to the Cape intact, Lord Roberts will in a very few days be in a position to begin the advance on Pretoria. His deep political intuition, combined with his bold strategy, is having the result desired in the southern sections of the Orange Free State, which are rapidly calming down.

Mafeking is now the only point for anxiety and as it is known that a force has left Kimberley, its relief may be announced before many days pass. The efficiency of the relieving column is heightened by the fact that it is partly composed of regulars.

In the lobbies of parliament, last evening, it was rumored that Lord Roberts is about to issue a proclamation announcing that the former system of government in the Orange Free State is abolished and promising Free States who immediately surrender due consideration.

It is understood that all the continental powers, with one exception, uncompromisingly refused to intervene. The exception was Russia, whose reply was couched in less firm language, although, like the others, she declined to interfere. It is said that the Pope was also appealed to, but that he declined to do anything beyond writing a letter to the queen, appealing to her to stop the further effusion of blood. Dr. Leyds' efforts with King Leopold were quite futile.

The possibility of the destruction of Johannesburg is still discussed here, but it is believed here that the French and German shareholders would offer a strong protest.

The latest advice respecting the surrender of Bloemfontein show that the approach of the British caused a stampede. Thirteen trains, each composed of forty cars, and all armed with Boers, hurried northward just before the line was cut. Mr. Steyn would have been compelled to surrender; but he pretended that he was going to visit one of the outposts, and at midnight took a carriage which was waiting for him outside the town and then escaped. The Boers got the bulk of their wagons and military stores away.

METHUEN'S REPORT

On the Battle of Magersfontein and Defeat of the British Forces Through Misunderstanding of Orders and Trust in Traitorous Guides.

LONDON, March 16.—The Gazette this evening publishes General Lord Methuen's report of the actions at Magersfontein, December 10 and 11, dated from the Modder River, February 15. After explaining the difficulties of any attempt to outflank 16,000 Boers and arguing that a blow dealt at the Boer center at Magersfontein would be more effective, he says his orders were to relieve Kimberley and therefore the day the last reinforcements arrived he decided to attack Magersfontein kopje. The general then proceeds to describe the artillery bombardment of the position and how the Highland brigade was led to the point of assault after the late Major General Andrew G. Wauchope had previously explained all he intended to do and the particular part each battalion was expected to play. Lord Methuen then says:

"Two rifles accidentally went off and the flashes from a lantern gave the enemy timely notice of the march."

BLUEFIELD POSTOFFICE BUILDING.

Favorable Report on a Bill for the Erection of a Postoffice at Bluefield, Costing \$75,000.

NEW BANK AT MARLINGTON

Numerous Applications for Exchange of Bonds Under the Operation of Finance Bill.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer. WASHINGTON, March 16.—The senate committee on public buildings and grounds, of which Senator Scott is a member, to-day made a favorable report on the senator's bill appropriating \$75,000 for the erection of a postoffice building at Bluefield, West Virginia. The bill contains the usual provisions as to purchase of site and for construction.

FRIENDLY MEDIATION

Would be Undertaken by Germany, Provided Both Parties Desire It. Suggests How to Find Out Whether the Desire Exists on the Part of England.

PRETORIA, Wednesday, March 14, via Lourenco Marques, Thursday, March 15.—The German consul has handed the following dispatch to President Kruger:

"The government of Germany and the emperor will be glad and ready to assist in friendly mediation as soon as it is demonstrated that both opponents desire mediation. Whether the desire already exists on the British side can be found by the republicans in direct inquiry at London or through the good offices of a third government, which has no important interests of its own to consider in South Africa. The latter assumption is qualified with a number of nations in and outside Europe, but not with Germany. Any such step on the part of the German government would awake suspicions and have other than a humanitarian view. The increased mistrust thereby engendered would not promote a peaceable settlement. The request of the republicans to the Austro-Hungarian and Swiss governments, whose interests are watched by the German consulate, has been immediately fulfilled."

SALISBURY'S REPLY

Puts an End to All Talk of 'Friendly Good Offices.'

LONDON, March 16.—Outlook, commenting on Lord Salisbury's reply to the United States' offer of mediation, says:

"Like Mr. Delcasse, President McKinley must himself see that this puts an end to all talk of friendly good offices on the part of any outside power. But President McKinley, unlike the French premier, is face to face with that most awkward factor, his November presidential election, and we know not even the best of presidents can be led to do at such times."

ROBERTS' CRITICISM

Of General Gatacre's Defeat at Stormberg.

LONDON, March 16, 7:42 p. m.—Lord Roberts, transmitting General Gatacre's report of the Stormberg defeat, gives his opinions thus:

"The failure was mainly due to reliance on inaccurate information regarding the ground to be traversed to the position held by the Boers. The Boers, being tired out by a long night march before they came in contact with the enemy. When it became evident shortly after midnight that the guides were leading the column in the wrong direction, I considered that should have halted and endeavored to get back on Molteno, rather than have risked the safety of the entire force by following a route which brought the troops into difficult ground commanded on both sides by Boers."

BLOEMFONTEIN

Practically in Rail Communication With Cape Town.

BLOEMFONTEIN, Friday, March 16.—General Clements crossed the Orange river yesterday. Reports to the railway bridge at Kameeldrift have been received and it will shortly be ready for traffic. General Polo-Carew telegraphs his arrival at Springsfontein, so that Bloemfontein is now practically in rail communication with Cape Town. My proclamation is already having a marked effect. Several hundred burghers have expressed their intention to surrender their arms and return to their occupations.

RUMOR

That Kruger Has Annexed the Orange Free State.

BETHULE, Orange Free State, Thursday, March 16.—General Gatacre, on arriving here, found that all the Boers had fled. The town was nearly deserted, the Dutch having trekked on hearing of the occupation of Bloemfontein. It is believed that the Boers retired in the direction of Dwyers Dorp. The telegraph is open to Swetsfontein. It is understood here that President Kruger two days ago annexed the Orange Free State to the South African republic.

TO LOOK AFTER MISSIONARY INTERESTS.

WASHINGTON, March 16.—Secretary Long has called instructions to Admiral Watson, at Cavite, to send a warship to Taku, China, at the mouth of the Tientsin river, to look after American missionary interests that are threatened. He has left the selection of the ship to Admiral Watson.

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MILITIA APPROPRIATION.

The house committee on militia to-day decided to report favorably the bill increasing the appropriation for the national guard and militia of the country from \$400,000 to \$2,000,000 annually. This action is believed to be the outcome in large part of the agitation upon the part of the friends of the national guard. A delegation comprising the adjutant generals of the organization throughout the country having presented the matter forcibly before the committee quite recently. General Appleton represented West Virginia in the delegation.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF MARLINGTON.

The comptroller of the currency to-day authorized a corporation to be known as the First National Bank of Marlinton, West Virginia, to do business on a capital of \$25,000. This is but one of several institutions to receive such authority to-day, and it is said the applications on file and not yet acted upon number hundreds.

The movement is the direct result of the adoption of the financial bill by Congress, a provision which permits the organization of banks in small towns, on a capital less than that required of institutions under the old law. Another result of the operation of the new law is that the treasury is in daily receipt of a large number of applications for exchange of bonds for the new 2 per cent securities. Since Wednesday, it is said, up to the close of business to-day the amount covered by these applications is between \$15,000,000 and \$20,000,000. Many people are inquiring whether or not the exchange of bonds is obligatory, and the treasury officials are kept busy answering in the negative.

STATE BANKS ARE CHANGING TO NATIONAL BANKS IN MANY INSTANCES.

Upon the recommendation of Representative Dovenor, H. O. Hamric has been appointed postmaster at Tate, Braxton county, West Virginia.

Change in Name Necessary.

Mr. Dovenor was to-day notified that a change of name would be necessary for a new postoffice in Marshall county, West Virginia. The patrons selected Marquis as the name, but it was so nearly a duplicate for Marquess, an office already in existence in the state, that the department officials feared confusion would arise, and a change was therefore required.

BILL APPROPRIATING

\$2,095,000 for Public Education, Public Works and Other Governmental and Public Purposes in Puerto Rico, Passed the Senate. The Quasi Case to be Taken Up Two Weeks from Next Tuesday.

WASHINGTON, March 16.—After a debate at times spirited, extending over parts of two days, the senate to-day passed the Puerto Rican relief appropriation bill. As passed the measure carries \$2,095,000, the President being authorized to use that sum "for public education, public works and other governmental and public purposes" in Puerto Rico. Mr. Allen (Neb.) offered an amendment to the bill, declaring that the constitution extends over Puerto Rico by its own force, but it was lost by the decisive vote of 36 to 17.

Mr. Jones (Ark.) withdrew a free trade amendment offered by him, and that proposition, therefore, did not reach a vote. Other efforts to amend the bill were fruitless.

An order was made by the senate as to consideration of the case of former Senator Quay, it being unanimously agreed that it should be taken up two weeks from next Tuesday and discussed until disposed of, the discussion not to interfere with the unfinished business, the Spooner bill authorizing the president to govern the Philippines until otherwise directed, the appropriation bills or conference reports.

PRIVATE BILL DAY IN THE HOUSE.

This was the first private bill day in the house under the new rule. About two hours were spent in the discussion of a bill to pay Representative Swanwick \$1,700 for extra expenses incurred by him in his contest in the last Congress, but the bill was ultimately abandoned. Six bills of minor importance were passed.

FAVORABLE REPORT

On Bill Appropriating \$2,000,000 for Equipment of Militia.

WASHINGTON, March 16.—The house committee on militia to-day directed a favorable report on the bill of Representative March, of Illinois, increasing

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Looks Hale and Hearty, and Says the War in Philippines is Practically Ended.

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As was stated in the Advocate to-day, your correspondent wishes to state that Dr. O. C. Bradley was not a delegate to the Parkersburg convention, and not a member of any committee connected with that convention, whatever.

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By the Palmer and Buckner Democrats to Capture the National Convention—Governor Stone Desires that They Show Fruits Meet for Repentance.

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"Some sort of a scheme is on foot, although I am not able yet to say definitely what it is. From information that came to me at Washington and since I gather that the end which the Palmer and Buckner Democrats are trying to attain is the capture of the organization of the party. Their scheme seems to be to get into the convention as delegates, and with as little noise as possible, but by means of adroit manipulation, control as many delegations as possible with the ultimate object of controlling the convention and capturing the national committee. They will be for Bryan, but they want the organization."

"Speaking for myself, I am very glad to see the Palmer and Buckner Democrats who deserted the party in 1896, come back to it. I do not believe in offering a premium for their return. If they come back they should come with no hope of reward, but as plain Democrats. I do not believe in giving them the management of the campaign."

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Two Fatally Burned and Two Seriously Injured at Pittsburgh.

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Explosions of this character are frequent in the section, but the absolute disappearance of Martin lends an air of mystery to the affair that makes it unique. Three hundred tons of molten iron, coke and minerals, used in the production of pig iron, became fast as the furnace, and Martin and Curvan, as top fillers, tried to dislodge it.

Suddenly the entire mass fell, compressing the gas below and causing a terrific explosion.

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FINANCE BILL NOT AFFECTING BUSINESS

Unfavorably, as Was Feared by Some Grain Movement Not so Strong.

HIGH PRICE NOT REALIZED

For Iron Products—While Markets Are Strong Quotations Have Not Advanced.

NEW YORK, March 16.—R. G. Dun & Company's Weekly Review of Trade to-morrow will say:

The monetary act which was signed and took effect on Wednesday, has not affected business perceptibly as yet. Designed as a barrier against future harm, it was by some expected to have immediate influence through provisions regarding banking circulation. While \$1,000,000 will be added to New York circulation the increase thus far indicated will be mainly interior, affecting the chief monetary centers only by lessening reliance upon them when more currency is wanted.

The grain movement is falling in importance. Corn exports have been in two weeks only 5,772,102 bushels, against 7,125,553 last year, though prior to March 12, 1899, 623 bushels were exported, against 9,554,944 last year. The wheat movement is falling behind rather less than it has been in recent weeks, owing partly to large Pacific shipments. Atlantic exports in two weeks have been 2,009,454 bushels, flour included, against 2,239,478 last year, and Pacific exports 2,664,077 bushels against 1,437,376 last year. While government estimates of wheat in farmers' hands showed a sufficient quantity with visible supply to meet besides all home requirements as large a foreign demand as those of last year and yet leave a large surplus, there is no reason to expect that last year's foreign demand will be equalled. The price advanced 1 1/2c for the week and corn advanced 2 1/2c.

Zealous efforts to excite new confidence in higher prices for iron have not had the desired effect. While various markets are called stronger, not a quotation has advanced, but tank plates at Pittsburgh are a shade lower, at 4 cents. Eastern gray iron has sold there in considerable quantity at \$30.50 against \$31.00 for local force, and Southern No. 1 foundry is selling here at \$22.75 against \$23.50 for Northern. No. 1 Bessemer pig is still held at \$34.00 at Valley mills, though small lots are obtainable at Pittsburgh at \$24.50. Many large contracts are mentioned as in prospect, but not one as closed except a structural contract for the government printing office. Much work is deferred because of the builders and machinists' strike at Chicago, and decrease of doubt whether prices can be held with the output exceeding consumption over one thousand tons per day.

Copper is strong and a shade higher, but large arrivals has caused some decline in tin.

It is not strange that higher prices have been asked for most cotton goods, with the market for raw cotton higher than it has been since January 1, 1899, and the break in its price did not go far enough to change its situation. Print cloths at 1/2c against 1/4c early in 1899. Standard and southern sheetings 1/2c to 3/4c lower, and ginghams 1/2c lower than in 1899, the mills would be asking more if they had not taken large supplies of cotton before the rise in February. The disposition to order goods ahead is much affected with doubt about price and consumption would probably be affected if present prices were to continue.

Sales of wool have been only 7,323,500 pounds in two weeks, manufacturers have such supplies that they buy only to replace out for special wants, and the best dealers report that a yielding of one cent would be required in order to effect sales. Quotations are really nominal for lack of transactions. The mills are still producing great quantities of goods without buying wool. Prices of leading goods have not declined, but others, both plain and fancy, are somewhat weaker.

The yielding in satin leather has led to considerable sales of men's shoes at 2 1/2c decline, but the concessions recently made in boots by makers who held old stocks of leather are now refused, and it is claimed that transactions in hemlock and oak sole have been larger than at any time since November. Most of the makers are receiving very slender orders. The market for hides at Chicago is again weaker, though the decline is not large.

Failures for the week have been 194 in the United States against 159 last year, and 23 in Canada against 39 last year.

DEEP SNOW

At Berkeley Springs—Thirteen and One-Half Inches.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer. BERKELEY SPRINGS, W. Va., March 16.—The deepest snow since February of last year fell here yesterday and last night. It is thirteen and a half inches deep and has begun to drift. All trains are delayed.

BRIDGE COMPLETED

Over Orange River and British Forces Crossed.

VANZYL, Thursday, March 16.—The bridge over the Orange river here has been completed. The British forces have crossed, and to-night they are bivouacking on Free State soil.

MORGANTOWN MELANGE.

Literary Feast in the Readings of Mr. George Middle State Sunday School Association—Winter Term Closed—Other Items of an Evening Telling Character from the University City.

MORGANTOWN, W. Va., March 16.—The West Virginia University has enjoyed a literary feast this week in the readings of Mr. George Middle, of Cambridge, Mass., the noted Shakespearean interpreter. The readings were given under the auspices of the school of elocution, and a large and cultured audience gathered at Mr. Middle's lecture hall. On Monday night he gave Midsummer Night's Dream, on Wednesday night, Lucretia Borgia, and last night Twelfth Night. Mr. Middle's presence was the occasion of several pleasant social functions given in his honor. A faculty reception, given at the home of Judge and Mrs. Okey Johnson, and a chafing dish party given by Mr. and Mrs. James C. Fraser, Professor and Mrs. C. H. Patterson and Mrs. W. B. Aldrich, made up the social features of his visit.

The State Sunday School Association has secured Hon. Marion Lawrence, of Toledo, Ohio, to deliver a series of lectures before the annual convention of the association, which will be held at Ravenswood, April 17, 18 and 19. The citizens of Ravenswood are making elaborate preparations to entertain the convention. They have secured rates on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at two cents a mile, and a committee is now engaged in finding temporary homes for the visitors.

Class work at the university for the winter term closed to-day and the quarterly examinations will continue for a week. Then, after an intermission of a week, the spring term will begin. President David Starr Jordan, of Leeland Stanford University, will be present at the opening and give a lecture. Mr. Archer, the noted Pittsburg organizer, will give a recital on the new pipe organ at the convention. The organ arrived this week